

Africa to the Sahara, and Asia south to northern Arabia and the Himalayas, and China to about the latitude of Peking. A few North American forms are included when they belong to circumpolar species, for the purpose of completing the account of the group, as in *Pica pica* and the genus *Acanthis* but not in the case of *Corvus corax*, although this species is cited in the introduction as an example of this treatment. It is to be noted that the name *flammea* (*Fringilla flammea* Linn.) is substituted for the familiar *linaria* (*F. linaria* Linn.) for *Acanthis linaria*, on the basis of precedence on the same page. Several subspecies are also here described for the first time.

Although we have a recent popular manual on the birds of the same region, the present work is to be most heartily welcomed as an exposition of the subject from a technically up-to-date standpoint.—J. A. A.

'The Avicultural Magazine.'—'The Avicultural Magazine'<sup>1</sup> is the journal of the Avicultural Society, which has for its object "The study of foreign and British birds in freedom and captivity," exclusive of "Poultry, Pigeons and Canaries."

It is published monthly, forming an annual volume of about 450 pages, with numerous colored and other plates, and also text figures. It is devoted, as the name implies, largely to the habits and rearing of wild birds in captivity, but contains also papers on birds observed in a state of freedom; the present volume including a series of illustrated popular papers by Mr. J. Lewis Bonhote on birds observed by him in the Bahamas (already noticed in this journal, XX, 1903, p. 230); on 'Birds in Towns,' by John Sergeant; 'The Late Rains and their effect on Bird Life' (in England), by E. G. B. Meade-Waldo, etc. Besides the general articles, there are departments for 'Reviews,' 'Bird Notes,' 'Correspondence,' etc.

An interesting note from a bird-dealer on 'British Birds in New Zealand,' states that Goldfinches, Redpolls, Chaffinches, Greenfinches, Hedge Sparrows, Thrushes, Blackbirds, Yellow-hammers, Buntings, and Gray Linnets, liberated some twenty-five years ago, have become very abundant so that a catch of "fifteen dozen Goldfinches a day," or seventeen dozen Redpolls, is easily made, while Chaffinches, Greenfinches and Hedge Sparrows may be had in "any quantity."

The magazine is largely taken up, as would be expected, with the habits and care of birds in captivity. There are several very interesting

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<sup>1</sup> The | Avicultural Magazine, | being the Journal of | the Avicultural Society for the Study of | Foreign and British Birds | in Freedom and Captivity. | Edited by | D. Seth-Smith, F. Z. S., M. B. O. U. | New Series, Vol. I. | November, 1902 to October, 1903. | London: | R. H. Porter, | 7, Princes Street, Cavendish Square, W. | 1903.—8vo, pp. i-xx, 1-431, 32 pl. (12 colored), and 18 text figures. Annual membership subscription, 10s.

communications on the nesting habits of a number of species, and some discussion under 'Instinct and Nest-building' of Wallace's theory that young birds learn to make their nests because they have themselves been reared in one, the experience of various contributions being to the effect that birds in captivity nest 'true to type' when the conditions are favorable, regardless of whether reared in a typical nest of their own species or not.

The magazine is evidently an authority in its own field, and an invaluable medium of communication and bond of union between the members of the Avicultural Society, which was founded in 1894, and has shown substantial and steady growth.—J. A. A.

**Seth-Smith's Handbook of Parrakeets.**<sup>1</sup>—Part VI, concluding this excellent work,<sup>1</sup> has been received, comprising pages 217-281, i-xx, and three colored plates, representing five species. The scope of the work, as defined by the author, is as follows: "Scientifically speaking, there is no distinction between a 'Parrot' and a 'Parrakeet,' the latter word being purely a popular term used for the smaller Parrots. It cannot be applied to any particular family, or subfamily, nor to those species with long or short tails. The gigantic Macaws are never called Parrakeets, but they are closely related to the Conures, and possess the long tails that one generally associates with Parrakeets. The title of this work, must, therefore, be interpreted in the sense in which it is generally used by aviculturists—that is, to mean the smaller Parrots, whether they possess short tails or long, whether they have ordinary or filamented tongues." The work, however, is not intended as a monograph of all the species, but only of the imported species, or those known to the author to have been imported. The number included in the present work is 131 species, of which colored figures are given of 33, and text figures of 23, mostly additional to those shown in the colored plates.

The general character of the work has already been given in our notice of Parts I-V (Auk, XX, pp. 322, 323), and we need add little more than to say that the author has provided for the large number of aviculturists and others interested in this class of popular cage birds a manual giving a large amount of interesting information concerning their habits and distribution in a wild state, their proper treatment in confinement, descriptions by which they may be easily identified, and very useful colored figures of many of them.—J. A. A.

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<sup>1</sup> Parrakeets. | A Handbook to the Imported Species. | [Vignette] By | David Seth-Smith, M. B. O. U., F. Z. S. | With Twenty Coloured Plates and other Illustrations. | London: | R. H. Porter, | 7, Prince's Street, Cavendish Square, W. | 1903. — 8vo, pp. i-xx + 1-281, with 20 colored plates and numerous text-figures.